

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 011073  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RPOST:LAR  
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP  
S/S-O :LRFLEISCHER

-----019299 152236Z /75

O 152225Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011073

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PBOR, PEPR, PDIP, ET, SO, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SPARE PARTS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0209

WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN AT THE LIKELIHOOD OF A SHARP  
ETHIOPIAN REACTION ONCE DECISION CONVEYED TO THEM, THE  
PROBABILITY THAT SOVIETS WILL EXPLOIT DECISION TO THE  
HILT, AND THE DESIRABILITY OF PUTTING AS MUCH SPACE AS  
POSSIBLE BETWEEN PRESENT IMPASSE IN RELATIONS AND DEMARCHE  
ON SPARES. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, PRESS HAS NO KNOWLEDGE  
OF FACT WE WERE INTENDING PERMIT SHIPMENT OF ANY PIPELINE  
ITEMS

-- AND WE WILL OF COURSE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PRE-  
VENT STORY FROM COMING TO LIGHT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER  
ETHIOPIANS INFORMED. WE WILL ALSO DELAY INFORMING  
ETHIOPIANS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. SINCE AMBASSADOR AYALEW  
HAS A CERTAIN STAKE IN THE CONTINUATION OF US-ETHIOPIAN

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RELATIONS, WE THINK, SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS, THAT IT  
MIGHT BE BEST FOR US TO MAKE THE INITIAL APPROACH ON  
THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM HERE AND SEEK HIS ADVICE AS TO  
HOW BEST TO PRESENT THE DECISION TO HIS GOVERNMENT. OUR  
PLAN IS TO HAVE THE FREIGHT FORWARDER'S NORMAL PENTAGON  
CONTACT CALL THEM MONDAY, INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE

ETHIOPIAN PAYMENTS, AND REQUEST THE FREIGHT FORWARDER TO  
INFORM THE PENTAGON WHEN THE FINAL PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE.  
THIS WILL ENABLE US TO DELAY TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH  
MIGHT ALERT THE FREIGHT FORWARDER, THE PRESS, OR THE  
ETHIOPIANS UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPARE PARTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE011073  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RPOST:LAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780022-0599  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 3772622  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MILITARY SPARE PARTS  
**TAGS:** MASS, PBOR, PEPR, PDIP, ET, SO, US  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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